GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:948
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
POLICY FOR CONSERVATION OF MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS
Maheshwari Smt. Kiran

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether any policy has been made by the Government for the maintenance of Archives/ Museums and conservation of Monuments:

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) Whether the Government has received proposals from various State Governments seeking financial assistance for the preservation of manuscripts of historical and cultural importance of their States;

(d) If so, the details of financial assistance provided during the last three years and the current year; and

(e) The steps taken by the Government in this regard, State-wise.

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM & CULTURE (SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Conservation of protected monuments is the primary responsibility of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 lays down these responsibilities.

Archival records are collected and conserved by the National Archives of India under the Public Records Act 1993.

The National Museum Institute, New Delhi and the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow have been set up with a view to imparting training in the area of conservation. Government maintains important museums like National Museum, Indian Museum, Salarjung Museum, and Allahabad Museum etc. where antiquities are collected, exhibited and conserved. The Ministry of Culture also extends financial and technical help to their Museums.

(c): Yes Sir.

(d): The details are at Annexure 'A'.

(e): In order to protect and conserve manuscripts, a National Mission for Manuscripts was set up in 2003. The Government has sanctioned funds for designating Manuscript Resource Centres and Manuscript Conservation Centre in various States. Financial assistance is also extended for improving storage facilities, better record management and computerisation. Curative and preventive conservation and preservation work is also being conducted.